

Pst. Oghenethoja Umuteme MSc MDiv ThD

Fruitful Vine



A Study Devotional

A Season of Harvest Day 1

A Promise keeping God Day 5

The Reward of Obedience Day 11

Standing Tall in Purity Day 15





Spending Time with God

Time	Description	Action
5:00am - 5:30am	Praising His awesomeness in the cool of the morning breeze and Dedicating of the day's activity. You may decide to do it outside to feel the cool morning breeze	Prayer/Praise
9:00am-9:05am	Read a Psalm of praise back to Him. Tell Him what you feel for Him in adoration and total submission	Praise
12:00noon - 12:30pm	It is noontime – half of the workday is gone. Tell Him thank you for allowing you cross over to the other half of the workday. Thank Him for all that transpired while you worked	Prayer/Praise
4:00pm- 4:05pm	Read another Psalms of Praise	Praise
6:00pm - 6:30pm	Thank Him for the day. You are probably now at home. Call the family together or a neighbour and worship Him together	Prayer/Praise
9:00pm - 9:05pm	Read a Psalms of praise after which you should take a rest while reading your bible and meditating	Praise
11:55pm - 12:30am	Thank Him for allowing you to see a new day and take control of the new day	Prayer/Praise

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Preface

This is the 9th month of the year 2019, and we are grateful to God for sustaining this devotional to this point in time. This September is a month of harvest and victories. I am very certain that God is going to reward us this month for all our labours in His vineyard. In this month's devotional, I have tried to bring this expectation forward by preparing our minds for the spiritual harvest of honour and announcement. Be rest assured that your God is ever faithful. He is willing to give us bread in abundance in due season. It is your turn to harvest bountifully. As in other devotionals, I present this September devotional to challenge the spiritual in you beyond this material world. I am very sure that if we keep remaining steadfast in the Lord, many will soon come and ask us to lead them to our God. Open your mind to study throughout this month, and this devotional shall bless you abundantly, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen!

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A Season of Harvest

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Gen. 8:22



As I sat to write the devotional for this day, I heard, “this is the season of harvest.” Harvest bring forth joy, as those who have sowed in tears are now going to reap in joy, according to the increase given by God (Psa. 126:5). The anchor verse says that harvest will not cease. God made this promise to Noah for his faithfulness. Hence, anyone who is faithful to God shall reap from the blessings upon Noah. September is generally regarded as a month of harvest in some cultures around the world. For students, it is the month for the beginning of another academic year. To parents, it is a month to pay school fees and buy the books for the new academic year. For business owners, it is a time to start the process of closing the books for the year – to calculate the gains and loss, and to frame a new plan for the coming year. September is rainy and a period of flooding. Scripture says that harvest happens in the season of cold (Prov. 25:13), and that harvest happens in the season of rains (Prov. 26:1). It doesn't matter what we have seen happen to us in the past. What is important now is that the Lord is giving us harvest this month,

therefore we must look out for every opportunity for harvest this month. It is a time we pray for increase in soul winning (Luke 10:2), as it is a time for our promotions in whatever godly ventures we found ourselves. It is a time for remembrance, as it is a time for upliftment. It is a time for breaking new grounds, as it is a time for recognition. It is our month of heavenly reward. For those who have worked earnestly supporting the work of God, your harvest is here. Your rest is in your harvest (Exo. 34:21). Therefore, watch out for opportunities of increase this month.

Faith confession: Lord, I am encouraged to remain faithful to your calling and bidding. I know that my time of reward is near.

Let us pray: Lord – my prayer today is anchored on the promise you made to Noah because of his faithfulness. I am a partaker of the blessings of harvest. Let my barns increase and let my rest be established. Amen!

Meditation: Rev. 14:15-16; Psa. 126:1-6

A Season of Gathering

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. Psa. 67:6-7



The above anchor verse says that God blesses us with increase so that the world will fear Him. David says in Psalms 23:5 that he had overflowing blessings. God can increase us to the extent we will have enough to gather. This was the advice Joseph gave to Pharaoh that gave him his exalted position as governor in Egypt (Gen. 41:34-40). Our increase is possible if we are in tune with the purpose of God, else we will have little or nothing to show for our labours on earth. Expecting to gather is to aim for increase. Except this is done, it becomes hard to actually desire increase in life. Even, some waste their increase by living in debts and unable to account for the increase that God gave them. God expects that we return to thank Him whenever we are blessed with increase, but how many remember to do this? A young man had a meagre salary and he always gave his first-fruit and tithes before ever spending on other needs. He prayed for increase and the Lord granted his request. The new salary

was 10 times more that he used to earn. Then he came to me to ask if tithing and first fruit were a necessity in the New Testament. When I answered in the affirmative, he grumbled and said – “all these pastors are very greedy – they keep eating the tithes without caring for the poor in the church.” I told him, it is not mandatory – it is free will. The last time I saw him, he was back to a level worse than his initial situation. We receive continuous increase when we regard the person of God in the midst of our increase. It is time to gather your increase (Zech. 8:12).

Faith confession: I am ready for the Lord's increase as I continually work in His vineyard. I know I also need wisdom to gather my increase.

Let us pray: Lord – guide me with your wisdom and understanding, that I may be able to gather the increase of the blessings from you. Amen

Meditation: Deut. 28:1-38

A Season of Giving

*For the needy shall not always be forgotten:
the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever. Psalms 9:18*



The anchor verse tells us of what God expects that we should do when we have been blessed with plenty. God is not going to come down with a bowl of cooked rice and chicken stew to give to the poor, he will use us to do that. This is why in your prayers of provision and prosperity before God, remind Him that you want to be a source of blessings to the poor, the fatherless and widows, and that if He blesses you with plenty, you will definitely remember the poor. Now, one may ask – why is it that God does not bless the poor directly? The truth is that poverty is not the lack of money, but the lack of wisdom and the continuous willpower to succeed. Scripture says in Ecclesiastes 10:10, “If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.” The scripture verse above tells us the reason many are poor. A blunt iron is a metaphorical expression for dullness of mind – that is, living without the wisdom of God. Whetting the edge of the iron is seeking enlightenment on the direction to take in a matter of need through wisdom. This is why it ended with - “wisdom is profitable to direct.” Living a life of struggles is not the easy way to success and fulfilment in life. The poor

will tell you that food cooked by firewood is better than that cooked by gas or electric cooker. They will tell you that using charcoal iron is better than electric iron. They will give one excuse or the other why they are not willing to accept and appreciate change. In some cases, the mind of the poor is so occupied with worries that they don't know when the solution to their problem is available. They live a life of doubts often. The rich in the Lord are the ones who believe that with God, all things are possible, and they keep pressing on – just like Jabez did (1 Chron. 4:9-10). While the poor prays for prosperity, they are not really sincere about the kind and level of prosperity they desire.

Faith confession: Lord! I want to be a blessing to the poor. I need more of your favours from now on. I shall swim in the ocean of abundant blessings.

Let us pray: Consider me o Lord and bless me with yourself. Let me have more than enough so that I can give to the poor. Let my cup run over – and I will not forget the needy in your church. Amen!

Meditation: Proverbs 14:31; Proverbs 19:17

A Season of Lending

The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. Deuteronomy 28:12



There is a statement that is key in the above scripture portion, "The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure..." Jesus expresses that good treasures represent good things (Matt. 12:35). Hence, when God is set to bless us with Himself, He also expects that we worship Him and Him alone (Isa. 45:23). The more we do this, the more His angels will ensure we do not borrow to live (Luke 12:8). The Lord blesses us so we can lend to many nations. How many of us really have more than enough to lend to others? Jesus gave a parable where the master reprimanded the servant with the five talent, that he should have kept the money in the bank to yield interest. However, God expects that when we lend to our brethren, we shouldn't expect usury (Exodus 22:25). This is one of the benefits of belonging to the fold, as one can easily get help from those that are highly favoured in the Lord. Though, many will never pay back what they borrowed, and this is the reason this means of getting favour amongst believers is no longer

common. If we look at the last statement in the anchor verse above, we can see that one way to get souls to follow your God is when they borrow from you (Prov. 22:7). We must understand that every command of God is geared towards enabling us to bind His words on the neck of our captives. When unbelievers live under our mercy because they are our debtors, we automatically make them do our bidding. And, what is the greatest payback term if not to compel them to serve the Lord? So, you must be vigilant. The Lord is blessing you so that you can bring souls to Him.

Faith confession: Lord, I will use the wealth you have given to me to entice and win souls into your kingdom of light.

Let us pray: My Lord, bless me so that I can increase to the extent that I will lend to many nations, and use my wealth to attract souls to you. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 5:42; Isa. 61:6

A Promise Keeping God

And the Lord said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. Deut. 2:9



We read during the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as the Angels of God promised not to destroy the land where Lot will escape to – Genesis 19:22, “Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.” You see what I mean, for the sake of Abraham, the Angels says that until Lot is safe, they can not destroy Sodom. This is one reason I am certain that God is still preserving the earth, as we can also read in the book of Revelations 7:3, “Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Now, let's see the Anchor verse above – God is still keeping the promise of not hurting the offspring of Lot. If we read the event in Genesis 19:1-22, we see how Lot preserved the Angels, trying to fend them from the assault of sodomy. You cannot preserve what bears the name of the Lord and not be preserved. You cannot sacrifice your time for the work of God, and His Angels will not sacrifice their time and attention for you. To me, I believe that if I give God my time, He

will surely give me His attention. He is a covenant keeper. He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and delivered the Israelites from their burden in Egypt. If we can serve Him today, be rest assured that our generations after us will keep reaping the reward of our steadfastness before the Lord, provided in their own time they walked in sanctity before Him. I see the hand of God protecting and preserving all that concerns you from now onwards with this understanding. I am certain that His Angels are on guard roundabout you as you are reading this.

Faith confession: Lord – I am in your presence and comforted by your promise of protection and preservation. Therefore, I will never live in fear.

Let us pray: Ancient and faithful God! Let my life continually please you and let me stand daily to defend your precepts before men as I serve you in truth and in spirit. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 37:1-40

Journey unto Safety

Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. Luke 17:32-33



Why did Jesus remind us to take learning from the wife of Lot in the above scripture? In the devotional of August 6, we also reminded ourselves how this woman flouted the instructions of the Angels and turned into a pillar of salt. What was she regretting to have left behind that made her to look back against the warning from the Angels if not her material possessions, and the uncertainty ahead? Now, when we look deeply into her action here, we can conclude that she must have influenced Lot's decision to choose the land of Sodom, when Abraham asked Lot to choose his inheritance and depart from him to avoid the daily quarrel between their men. Did Lot have peace in the land? The answer is a simple No! We read of how Abraham had to rescue him from the hands of those that took them hostage after they besieged Sodom. Also, scripture recorded how his sons in law disregarded his instructions (Gen. 19:14). What are we learning here? If God says go, do not look back. This is why we call Abraham the father of faith, in that he obeyed God to leave his land

the moment God commanded. We can see the movement to safety for the family of Lot as relevant to our call out of sin into a life of holiness; a call from darkness into light; a movement from want into plenty. But we must not think that the life of sin God called us from is better than the peace we have in Christ. Looking back to appreciate the life of sin, is an offence before God. Let bygone be bygone. You are now a new creature – old things pass away. Let your yesterday die forever, as long as that yesterday was never palatable before God.

Faith confession: I am ready to heed the advice and instructions of the Lord so that I can live a better life and continually earn his mercy

Let us pray: Dear Lord, I pray that you guide me through my life time on earth. I surrender my heart unto you, and I lay down my desire for your will. Let me stay, standing before your heavenly tabernacle daily. Amen!

Meditation: 2 Chronicles 24:18-21

A Way Maker

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinth. 10:13



When we encounter obstacles to success in life, we should be more interested on the way out of the predicament God is about to make, rather than the sorrowful situation. I have come to realise that we all usually start somehow in life heading towards somewhere, in the end it is the somewhere that determines how good was the somehow. Hence, with God holding our hands, wherever and whatever we are in life is under His control. This is the more reason we must ignore the backing of the wolves around us and press forward towards the mark of victory in Christ. In the anchor scripture portion above, Paul reminds the believers at Corinth that no man is tempted above what others had experienced in the past. So, if Daniel could face the lions in their den, why not we stay steadfast unto the bidding of the Lord? If the disciples could dare the opposing forces of the scribes to preach the gospel, why not we do exactly the same? Our own challenges could be food, shelter and clothing – God can provide all these if we are recruited into His vineyard as soul winners. We might

face shameful situations, yet as fallen soldiers we need to rise again and put the devil to shame. Are you facing oppression in your office? It is a matter of time – God is a way maker. There is no obstacle that is greater than the arm of the Lord. hence, He says – “...Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? (Isa. 50:2). The Prophet reminds us further in Isaiah 59:1, “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.” So, if we can remain steadfast throughout the trial and not be found in sin (Isa. 59:2), He will surely make a way before we knew it.

Faith confession: I understand that the Lord is able to make a way for the faithful, as long as they remain steadfast in their service to the Lord.

Let us pray: My Lord and saviour, as I continually depend on your salvation, I pray that you come speedily to deliver me from my sorrows. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 11:28-30

The Promise After the Honour

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. Genesis 15:1



Abraham honoured Melchizedek because he was the King of Salem and he was blessed (Gen. 14:17-18). Abraham equally refused to be enticed with the gifts from the king of Sodom in order to honour the name of God – Gen. 14:21-23, “And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.” Now, if we look at the anchor verse above, scripture says that “after these things.” Meaning, God was watching Abraham all through the event, and haven seen that Abraham stood firm in the face of corruption, decided to reward Abraham by becoming his shield – his defender against all manner of troubles, and making Himself Abrahams reward. Did we read that? Yes! The fact remains that God does blesses and rewards people who did not lost their faith and stand in Him when faced with situations of want

and need. Have you draw the line between your faith and your desires? Have you reminded yourself that if you stay till the end that God will invest Himself in your life? Less we forget that God owns the universe, and can give us beyond what we ever expect, that is making many to sell their souls to the devil. It is easy to know when one will surely succeed beyond the imaginations of men. Once it is settled in the spiritual, men will give you their possessions for your inheritance. The problem with most believers is how much wait on the Lord is going to bring down the favour of heaven. This is where God is God. No man surely knows the hour. Yet, we must wait for his rain of abundance when it pleases Him to gather the clouds to bless us.

Faith confession: From today, I will wait for the enduring blessings of the Lord.

Let us pray: Lord! Help me to depend on you in the midst of the temptations of needs and wants, so that I can sustain my faith in your name. Amen!

Meditation: Genesis 22:15-18;

The Blessings Flows Within

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26



Reading the anchor scripture portion above reminds me of what David reminded us in Psalms 15. In this Psalms, David investigated how we can be blessed with the enduring blessings and presence of God, and his answer was simple – we must abide in the Tabernacle of the Lord (Psalms 15:1). Then, he went forth to state and explain the qualities of those who merit this rare privilege. Can we also see anything similar from the anchor memory verse above? God can bless everyone, but there are some that are specially blessed because they abide in His presence, serving Him in holiness. These ones do not lack anything (Deut. 8:9). This is why I always believe that wealth making starts from the altar of the Lord, because this is where the Angels apportion the wealth of the land to whomever the Lord has decided to favour. If we take deeper look into the anchor verse, we would see that God says only those who are about His hill (altar) to serve Him, that will experience His overflow of blessings. What does this mean? To dwell round about His

presence is to honour Him in what we do, and to serve Him by His standards and expectations, and not by what we imagine in our hearts. The question to ask ourselves daily is what God is demanding from us that we must do. We can know this when we abide in His presence, as children waiting for their father to send them errands. This is the indication in 1 Samuel 2:35, “And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart ...” I pray that the Lord, grant you further understanding in this matter, so that your relationship with Him will forever be an enduring and a blessed one.

Faith confession: I am ready to run errands for the Lord, as I dwell daily in His presence.

Let us pray: Lord – I am willing to run errands for you. Give me the mind that will obey and serve in your sanctuary all the days of my life. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 27:4; 2 Chronicles 30:8-9

Performing our Promises before God

That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform... Deut. 23:23



How often do we make promises before the Lord and will refuse and forget to perform them? This is a grievous offence before God. The concluding part of the above anchor verse says – “...even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.” How many times have we erred in this regard? This is why the preacher cautioned in Ecclesiastes 5:2, “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God...” We must guard our mouths against rash statements, whenever we are praying. I have even become so careful singing the lyrics of some songs, so that I will not be found wanting before the hosts of heaven. Let us see some of the promises we can make and fulfil to attract the goodness of the Lord. The first is keeping the Ten Commandments (Deut. 4:13; Psa. 119:105,112). While many have said these commandments are no longer necessary in this new dispensation, I have also asked if there is anything in the Ten Commandments that does not represent what God expects from a holy generation that He seek to worship Him in truth and in spirit. The second is our vows (Psalms 61:8). This scripture portion says that the

payment of vows must be accompanied with a heartfelt praise unto God. The third is our celebrations, such as church anniversary, marriage anniversaries, birth days, etc. Some have also argued that these are not necessary, but how can we tell of His faithfulness when we do not celebrate our testimonies? In Nahum 10:15, scripture says – “keep thy solemn feasts...” Solemn feasts are gatherings, such as the Purim celebration to mark how God delivered the Jews from death. If we gather to thank God, it is a very good thing and acceptable by God. It is a time to testify of His goodness (Psa. 22:25).

Faith confession: Lord! I will never forget your faithfulness, and I will perform all the promises I made before your altar henceforth.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! I know that you want us to fulfil our promises before you even as we expect that you fulfil yours. Help me to always remember to perform all the promises that I made before you and to use the opportunity to testify of your goodness upon my life. Amen!

Meditation: 2 Peter 3:9; Psalms 56:12-13

The Reward of Obedience

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.... Exodus 19:5



One reward from the Lord is that which He releases upon those who obeys heavenly instructions. In the above anchor scripture, the Lord says that the reward for obedience is making us uncommon treasure upon the face of earth. First, we are expected to obey His voice. This demands a responsibility of attentiveness from us. It means that if we are unable to hear properly, we will not understand properly. How can we develop a good listening skill? We have to start from the physical. We must try not to talk when someone is talking to us until we are sure the person is expecting us to respond. Have you noticed that marital disagreements can occur when couples do not listen to each other? If we fail to listen properly to those we can see and relate with daily, how can we listen to God who is a spirit? This is why it is onus on us to develop a good listening habit physically first, before we can talk of listening to spiritual voices as we grow in faith (Rom. 10:17). The ability to listen to spiritual voices is what we need to exercise the gift of spiritual discernment. The second demand upon

us from the anchor verse is keeping the covenant of God. We enhance our relationship with God through vows and covenants (Psa. 25:14). What awkward life are you leaving for the sake of God? What evil gathering have you rejected because of your relationship with God? How do you treat the things of God? Does God come first before your personal needs and desires? We must endeavour to keep His covenants to be saved from societal cruelty and evil (Psa. 74:20). If we must prosper beyond the wish of man, we must define our relationship with God in covenants (Psa. 111:5). For instance, Job made a covenant to overcome lust (Job 31:1).

Faith confession: I am willing to hear and listen to the word of God. I am prepared to enter into a covenant with Him and keep it

Let us pray: Lord – Jesus! Help me to listen attentively to your word and let me learn to enter into covenants with you that I can keep in my prayers. Amen

Meditation: Malachi 2:2

Living Your Life by Revelation

All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern. 1 Chronicles 28:19



We can become fulfilled in life if we can live our lives according to the revelations of God. In the anchor verse above, we can see David telling us that his influence as a king was the handiwork of God. And, that the pattern of the temple he was preparing materials to be built after his death unto God was by revelation. I love David and his faith in God. Though, he was not going to see the building of the temple, yet he made up his mind to make provisions in line with what was revealed to him. This is how we plan our future, even after our demise. A child of destiny does not live by the day. We live by revelation, focusing our minds and strengths on what God promises that we can achieve in the future. I live by revelation. Every successful believer is the one that live by what God says and not by the complaints of men. Your life is not determined by who is in government. Yes! I mean it. Even if the devil is the president, your life is controlled by heaven and not by the logics and rules of man, so why bother? Let them shout and complain of bad governance and sorrow all around the world, your future is secured in the revelation of God.

Scripture strengthens us thus – Daniel 11:32, "...the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." Hence, while the world is complaining, those living by the revelations of God are spending time growing in their knowledge of God. The secret to living a blossoming life on earth is how much of the knowledge of God you know. This was why Paul cautioned that those who do not have the knowledge of God will definitely experience sorrows in this earth – Romans 10:1-3. Since, we experience a multiplication of grace and peace through the knowledge of God and of His Christ (2 Peter 1:2), our success is certainly sure.

Faith confession: I am determined to increase in the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ by spending time studying the scriptures daily

Let us Pray: Lord! Let my life be directed by your word. Let me live my life by your revelation. Guide me through the path of your glory daily. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 11:27; 1 Samuel 3:20-21; Daniel 2:19-22

When God is Involved Things will Evolve

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11:40



The anchor verse above clearly states the fact of discussion. God has provided us with some better things that are unique to each one of us. With these provisions from God, we are supposed to be sought after by unbelievers because without us they will never receive perfection. What does this mean? It means that we are a privileged breed of humans upon the face of earth who holds the solutions to the problems of humanity. As such, we are not supposed to be seen complaining because we have the grace of God making a way for us where there seems to be no way. We cannot be stagnant because the waves and tides is in our favour. Even if there is a change in government, it is for our favour. Daniel served under different reigns of Kings, yet he still remained the most sought after in his time. Someone met me some time ago and complained that God called him to pastoral ministry, but he was unable to start because there was no fund. I was somehow shocked because, all through scripture I have never seen where God will call a man without making provisions for His

work. Jesus gave a parable of those who were idle called into a vineyard. In that parable, I did not read where it was written that they had the tools to work with them, yet they were called into the vineyard because the tools they needed to work were in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-9). The disciples were sent out without food, bags and sandals, yet they lacked nothing (Matthew 10:5-11). God is able to do His work. The children of Israel left into the wilderness from Egypt and God provided for them for the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness. God cannot be involved, and you will experience lack.

Faith confession: Lord! my mind is fixed to keep following you and trusting in your arm of deliverance

Let us pray: Jesus, in your name do I cast my eternal hope. Let me be restored beyond my expectations. Heal me and hold me with your arm of deliverance. Bless me with your glory and provisions. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 55:22

Beyond Almsgiving

For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. Mark 14:7



In recent times, Christianity has been seen as the giving of alms, that many that come to the house of God only come when they are in need of one material assistance or the other. In the above anchor verse, Jesus made us to know that we need to give Him the highest regard once He is in our midst. That, we need to honour Him above our drive for humanity. However, with increasing hunger worldwide, this need to give attention to the Lord is being challenged by many. We give Him honour when we make Him the centre focus of our belief and faith and works of faith. Meaning, while it might be useful to feed the hungry, there could be a more pressing need to take the gospel to an interior area where the gospel has not been preached before. Cornelius gave alms, but he lacked the salvation of the Lord, hence Peter was sent to him. His alms did not make him and his household to receive the Holy Spirit, but their attention to the message and gospel preached by Peter (Act 10:44). Zacchaeus was a good man – he gave half of his goods to the poor and pay back those who over payed him, but he lacked salvation until he met Jesus (Luke 19:8-

10). Marta was good with her acts of hospitality, providing to the poor in their midst but lacked the needful – the word of salvation that only Jesus can give (Luke 10:41-42). What do you still lack in your Christian life? If we can focus on the needful our acts of charity can yield more promising fruits acceptable unto the Lord. While the act of charity is highly commendable for us as believers (James 2:16), yet we are expected to respond to the higher calling of Christ to abide in Him and bring souls to His bosom for the salvation of their souls. To do this, we too must have been well trained in the dissemination of the word of truth. Dont be over too busy with almsgiving to the detriment of your own soul.

Faith confession: From today, I will become cautious of the restoration of my soul through the preaching of the gospel and living the gospel.

Let us pray: Lord! Help my inner mind to always yield to the call of soul winning. Let my heart burn to save the souls heading for hell. Amen

Meditation: Psalms 43:3; Acts 10:1-48

Standing Tall in Purity

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 2 Timothy 2:20



The anchor verse above is simply referring to the rewards we receive in our walk with God. Those who walk in purity are the ones referred to as gold and silver, and they are the ones that receives the honour of service. This is why we are cautioned to remain standing in purity before God (2 Tim. 2:19). It is really of no use being a believer if our goal is not to aim for the honour from the Lord. If we regard the honour of service in the Lord as important, then we will live our lives to avoid whatsoever offends Him. As we started the devotional for this month, we saw the need for harvest. The harvest of increase in whatever we do, including the winning of souls. If we become so dry with nothing to show for our years of service to the Lord, is it that the Lord is wicked? No, I cannot believe the Lord is wicked. Rather, He is only rewarding mankind according to their works (1 Corinth. 3:8). We might have been busy for the Lord, yet we did not consider it necessary to observe those salient things that moves His heart unto compassion. In Mark 8:2, we read of how Jesus had compassion on the multitude because they had stayed

listening to His teaching for three days without going about their various works. Let's see what Jesus actually said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far" – Mark 8:2-3. Many had actually come from far to listen to the great revelation about the kingdom of God. We can move His heart into a state of compassion, if we truly hunger after His word. Just as He provided for them, our prayers too can be answered.

Faith confession: Lord! I understand that those who are willing to receive your word into their heart can experience your compassion.

Let us pray: Lord, let me experience the provisions that accompanies your compassion. Help me with the patience that I need to restore my soul from the kingdom of darkness, as I hear and learn your word daily. Amen!

Meditation: Isaiah 49:15

Don't Mind the Turbulence

Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong... Daniel 10:18-19



Daniel faced all manner of persecutions because of his stance of faith, yet he was never broken. How did he achieve this? His strength is contained in the entire Daniel 10. Remember that Jesus referred to Daniel as a prophet (Luke 13:14). From here we know that Daniel was working in the company of Angels, who strengthened him as we read in the above anchor scripture. One glaring source of Daniel's strength is found in Daniel 1:9, "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs." You can see why I say do not be afraid of the tempest, as long as you are with the Lord. Now, let us take a look at the subsequent statements made to Daniel by the Angel that appeared to him as reported in Daniel 10. First, the Angel informed Daniel that the reason God was so particular about him was because he was "a man greatly beloved" in verse 10. Another scripture instance where an Angel saluted someone with great respect is to Mary, in Luke 1:28, "... thou that art highly favoured..." If we read Daniel 10:12, we can read of the kind of person Daniel was, and this was what

brought him to limelight before the Lord – "...thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God..." Daniel decided to follow after the precepts of God by first setting his heart to understand the ways of God and obeying the laws of God unto holiness. He suppressed the desires of the flesh to the extent that he avoided the king's delicious meal and chose to eat vegetables instead (Daniel 1:8). For all these, the Angel told him that his battles were taken over by the hosts of heaven – even Arc. Angel Michael (Daniel 10:21). We are provided with Angelic protection when we serve God in purity.

Faith confession: I understand that Angelic protections are available for those who work with God in purity and sanctity.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, set my heart to follow your ways and guide me unto the path where I can uphold your word with all readiness and dedication. Let me continually yield to your instructions all the days of my life. Amen!

Meditation: James 3:1-18

Greatness by Scriptural Meditation

... Isaac went out to meditate in
the field at the eventide.... Genesis 24:63



Greatness is achieved by scriptural meditation. We reflect on the truths contained in the word of God through meditation (Psa. 119:97,99). Show me a man that is greatly favoured by God, and I will show you a man that meditate upon the word of God often. As shown in the anchor verse above, we see the heir to all the blessings upon Abraham spending time to meditate. Who can we compare Isaac to? I am not sure of the multibillionaire that had the kind of wealth and blessings that Abraham had. The entire land of Israel as we see it today was Isaac's inheritance yet, he was so humble before God, spending time to meditate. By the anchor verse above, we learnt that the secret of Abraham was meditation, which Isaac had learnt from him. This is how we search through scriptural secrets that can better our lives. In Psalms 19:14, we can see that the secret to David's strength and greatness was the prayers of his mouth powered by the meditation of his heart – "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Jesus gave

us a clue to this fact when He said that – Matthew 12:34, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Our words can be pleasing to the Lord, when such words are polished and influenced by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinth. 2:13). When we meditate upon the word of God, we are connected with the livewire of spiritual communication from the kingdom of light, where we hear and take instructions from the Lord. It is through meditation that we reason with God, so that He can take us to our expected end of goodness (Isaiah 1:18; Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Faith confession: Going forward, I have made up my mind to spend up to an hour studying and meditating upon the word of God daily.

Let us pray: Lord! I pray, let your everlasting joy fill my heart as I continually meditate upon your word and reveal yourself to me through your word daily. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 5:1-12

Becoming Upright in Heart

*My defence is of God, which
saveth the upright in heart. Psalms 7:10*



Some have asked if there is any reward in serving God with an upright heart. In the anchor verse above, David recounts that God defends those who are upright. With the level of insecurity all over the world today, I see this as the greatest reward we should receive from the Lord. Aside from defence from insecurity, the Lord can also stand to defend us from those that accuse us wrongly. So, we have two kinds of defence that we can get by serving God faithfully and righteously. God can cut off the accusing tongue of the enemy against your destiny. He can make your enemies to start singing your praise. As a mediator of the new covenant, Jesus ensures that the devil is unable to bring us down with his tongue of accusation. So, stand firm in the Lord – it is worth our time and labour. When Solomon failed God, it was obvious he never experienced the favour of God as the kingdom fell apart after his death. His interaction and observance of other cultures and traditions aside from what God commanded can be attested to in some of his writings. Most significant is his expression of the burial rituals of Asian

cultures, in Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 where the soul of man is detached from the earth at death, before the onward journey into the spirit world. These were never the burial rites instructed by God in scripture. The Jews do not cremate their dead but bury them as “whole.” Where then, did Solomon learn that dust (ashes) will return to the earth if not for his interaction with the cultures of Indian? The abominations of idolatry worship by Solomon continued till the days of Prophet Hosea (Hosea 8:14). This shows that the more we copy the cultures and traditions of others, it will make it difficult for us to become sound in the knowledge of God that we are expected to pursue.

Faith confession: Lord – I yield to your guidance. I am determined to walk uprightly in your will for my destiny.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! Let my heart seek after your righteous will for my soul, that I may learn to walk uprightly before your throne of grace all the days of my life. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Kings 13:1-34

Lost but Found

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. Matthew 18:11



Jesus says He came to earth to save the lost. Have you ever thought of this - that, you were lost but now found? What does it take to be lost within the context of Jesus' statement? Now, consider all the people that Jesus healed – they were among the “lost.” We have heard of testimonies of how people encountered the Lord and their situations of shame were turned into testimonies of glory. So, we can say that we understand what it means to be lost. In the aviation industry, when it is said that a plane is lost out of radar, it means the aeroplane is having technical challenges that is making it difficult for the pilot to communicate with the airport control tower. In most cases, this is one reason they conclude that an accident has happened. If we borrow the above analogy, we can say that anyone that is lost from the radar of heavenly communication is heading for destruction. Just as plane crashes are not palatable occurrences, so also the danger of unbelief. Yet, the Lord has provided a means for us to be saved and restored back to our lost dignity if we can only subscribe to the call of heaven. You might have heard of people losing their mobile phones SIM, and until they

recover their lines, they are out of communication reach. When we lost network signals, we try to move to a location where the signal can be restored. We can equally use this analogy to explain what happens to our souls when we are lost from the reach of heavenly communications. We become unguided and living a life of mistakes. Our future become submerged in futile struggles. We are treated with disdain. We hardly receive help and favour from others and God. Our prayers are not answered because they were never received. Today is a day we can right this. Let us connect our consciousness back to the mind of God and receive His helping arm, henceforth.

Faith confession: I cannot live a life without the guide of God. I am restored unto glory through the saving grace of His mercy.

Let us pray: My God and Saviour. In you do I rest my hope. Help my heart to keep following your precepts and guide my thoughts towards your desire for my life, that I may please you always. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 18:1-50

The Cost of Sin

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour. Proverbs 14:9



Sin bites. But many are unaware of the damage that sin does to our soul and existence on earth. This is why in the anchor verse; scripture says that it is only a fool that will continue to live in sin. The last statement says that those who are righteous are those who also obtain favour. Meaning, the damage sin does to us is denying us of the favour of God. Is this not damaging enough? If we lack the favour of God, how can we survive the heat of the struggles of life? Have we seen why those who still struggle with sin are experiencing lack in finances and the means to earn a living? Can we see why families that tolerates sin are hungry and unable to live a life of honour and glory? Have you now seen that it is a foolish thing to overlook sins and not preaching against it? I am not a fool, so I will preach against sin. I need the favour from God, so I must press forward towards obtaining the mark of righteousness. The testimonies of those who overcame the power of sin and prospered in the Bible remains my watchword. I learn from how Joseph overcame seduction; of how Daniel overcame gluttony; of how Deborah

defended the name of God, etc. No need imitating people who do not value destiny. Scripture says "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" Prov. 14:34. A reproach is a shameful dent into our personality that can be likened to a cancerous wound that has refused to respond to treatment. Reproaches brings shame, mockery, disregard, dishonour, disgrace, etc. If we do not want any of these, it is high time we overcame sin. Hence, like we said earlier – be determined to sustain the sanctity of your soul before God by resisting sin, so that you can obtain favour from Him.

Faith confession: Dear Lord – I am moved in my inner mind to overcome the temptation to sin and defile my soul before the Lord.

Let us pray: Lord! In you do I commit my body and soul. Help me to resist sin and hold me up in righteousness all the days of my life. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 7:6;
Leviticus 20:26

No More Living a Life of Crumbs

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Matthew 15:26-27



The anchor verse relates a story of a woman who desired a miracle from Jesus. In the discussion that ensued, Jesus differentiated between two kinds of people – children of the kingdom and dogs. To some, that was derogatory enough for the woman to turn her back and bemoan her faith, yet she pressed forward to receive a miracle for her dear dying child. You see, when people are desperate for a breakthrough, they are willing to take and swallow any insult, no matter how degrading it is, and we should not be quick to think they have made up their minds to follow the Lord. This category of people, referred to as dogs in the anchor verse, only come to have a bite of the Lord's miracle and would find a reason not to come to church service again, because as far as they are concerned, they have achieved the aim of coming to whatever miracle service or program that brought them to church. If you keep following such people, with the aim of planting their feet in the kingdom, they might just become another Judas with the plan to wreak havoc. Now, back to the anchor verse – we might have seen some believers who have this kind of mindset. They are quick to run from one crusade ground to the other, and from one

church convention program to the other. They only receive their breakthrough when so and so man of God came to town, or when so and so program happened. I don't advocate for this kind of Christian living. Scripture says in Psalms 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." What this means is that, the purpose of becoming a believer is to become converted and be wise in the things of God. Hence, our ultimate desire is to be totally converted to operate in sync with the desire of heaven. Children of the new covenant are not children seeking signs, but children seeking to have the knowledge and understanding of God, so that they can be blessed abundantly by God.

Faith confession: I aim for the life that will usher the glory of God into my life, and not a life desiring to be fed with crumbs and leftovers.

Let us pray: Adonia – I sincerely seek to be a child of light. Help me to fulfil this wish in my life time; to be fed with the sincere milk of salvation.

Meditation: Gen 24:34-36; Luke 12:16-21

Focusing on Spiritual Details

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. Matthew 17:17



The disciples were about Jesus, but they were perverse and faithless, focusing on fame rather than spiritual details. To be perverse is to be stubborn and unrepentant. To be faithless is to be disloyal. Their inability to exercise the power of God when it was demanded of them was described by Christ as a sign of stubbornness and disloyalty to the purpose of the gospel. It showed that the disciples were still glued to the tradition of position and titles that was common in Israel, as we also see today in our society. We come across the major problems they had in Luke 9:49-50, "And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us." Here, we saw them going to the extent of stopping those healing in the name of the Lord, because he was not one of them, whereas they that were about Jesus were carried away by position and titles (Matt. 19:27; Matt. 20:20-24; John 21:20-22). This was the same problem with the disciples of John the Baptist (John 3:26). And, obviously the same ignorance being displayed today by those who follow many acclaimed miracle

working pastors today. I have seen and heard pastor's wife displaying high level of ignorance concerning scripture truths; pastor's personal assistant only interested in defending his pastor's doctrine with no knowledge of scripture; pastor's children committing abominable sins to the chagrin of unbelievers, etc. It is not about titles, it is about how much of the knowledge of God we have, and how much of that knowledge we have used to transform our lives and that of others. Today, before you preach the gospel, you are expected to wear the title of your spiritual father, else people see you as a fake preacher. We learn under people to have a start in ministry, but they do not determine the essence of our ministry, Christ does.

Faith confession: I have made up my mind to follow the Lord unto perfection, than to dwell in the illusion of titles.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, help me to follow hard after you, to learn your ways and to live by your will. Help me to showcase your power when it is demanded of me. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 11:29; Hebrew 13:9

Stay Truthful to your scriptural Identity

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. Deuteronomy 18:9



People often throw away their Christian values and identity when they come into a new environment. One common place this can happen is in our work places. We prayed for years to have a good job, and when the job comes – we end up undermining the values of the Lord who made it possible. And, we join all manner of associations and clubs, to promote ideologies that are against our faith and belief. This is exactly in corroboration with the warnings that Moses was giving to the Israelites in our anchor verse for today's devotional. Despite the above warnings, it wasn't long after they started fraternizing with their neighbours that they forgot the precepts of the Lord. The repercussion was grievous, resulting in deaths without numbers, humiliations from their neighbouring nations as they were carted away as slaves and their mothers, wives and daughters were raped. Are you losing your values because of salary? Have you thrown away your trust in the Lord because of position? Are you under duress to act against the will of God for your destiny? Have you compromised your chastity to

seek favour or promotion? Have you degraded yourself into becoming a harlot to meet the demands of the flesh? Have you cheated the poor, needy and the rich to make more gains? We might have stolen public funds, falsify financial figures, lie to gain favour, cheated to earn a living, and other abominable offences against the character of His holiness. Yet, we can make amends and repent. We can meet God today in prayers and sincerely ask for pardon, with a promise not to repeat such ignoble acts. Stay firm to your faith and belief. These occurrences are all trials of faith, and if you can overcome them, the Lord will wear you a garment of righteousness.

Faith confession: I am willing to stand by my faith and belief in the Lord against all odds henceforth.

Let us pray: My Lord and King, strengthen me to stay firm to my faith and belief, no matter how much I am tempted to ignore them. Amen!

Meditation: Romans 12:9-21; 2 Corinthians 13:7-9

Spiritual Companionship

*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more;
but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. John 14:18-19*



The need for spiritual companionship cannot be overemphasized, especially now that majority of believers are losing their faith to the demands of contemporary society. To have spiritual companionship is to be in the company of the spiritual – the forces and powers of the kingdom of light that can make your Christian journey on earth easy. Before Jesus made the promise in the anchor scripture above, the disciples were already living in fear and afraid of how they will ever be able to face the scribes and the persecutors of the gospel of Christ when Christ had returned to the father, in His glory, in heaven. We come across such companionship in the days of Elisha as Israel were set for war (2 Kings 6:17). This implies that the acts of miraculous acts performed by Elisha were made possible by these heavenly companions. We also see this assurance in Exodus 23:20-21, as God promised Moses of Angelic guide. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit as our comforter and Angels to minister unto us. We also have the Bible as our companion as we study and learn more about God and His works upon the face of earth. Saint Paul also says that servants of God are also our companions

to guide us adequately in spiritual matters. The book of Hebrews says in Hebrew 12:22-24, “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things” Can we see our spiritual companions above? - Angels (Rev. 5:11), the general assembly (Rev. 4:4); departed saints (Rev. 7:9-17); the Lord (Rev. 4:2-3); the blood of Jesus (Rev. 12:11). Are you still afraid? You are insured and covered!

Faith confession: Thank you Lord, for providing me with these spiritual companions. I am secured and covered by this assurance.

Let us pray: Lord, let this understanding strengthen me more to stand firm in the defence of my faith, and to be assured of your guidance and protections. Amen!

Meditation: Isaiah 11:9-10

Power in the Cross

...the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18



What does the cross represent in our pursuit of faith? In the anchor verse, Paul argued that those who perish are those without the cross; it is the power of God when we preach it to others. Meaning, if you want to receive the power of God, all you need to do is to keep preaching the cross to others so that they can repent and toe the part of righteousness. It might not be so clear how we can receive the power of God by merely preaching about the cross. It is important to know that the cross is the emblem of our forgiveness. You see, the cross is likened to the brazen serpent that the Israelites looked upon in the wilderness and they were healed from snake bite (Numbers 21:9). Scripture says in John 3:14-15, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." From this scripture portion, Jesus explained that while it is a good thing to preach the gospel, we become saved by the gospel when we believe in Him. Therefore, if we want to receive the power of God from preaching the gospel, we must also believe the teachings of Christ. We live by what we believe. Implying, the power of God cannot be available to heal, protect,

promote, establish and make us honourable if do not live by the precepts of God. This is one reason many who preach the gospel are not reaping the fruit of their labour. Severally, in His teachings, Jesus explained that the kingdom has come to dwell among us. Every kingdom is established in values, culture and tradition. Without mincing words, some Christians are so tied to their various traditions and cultures that they have neglected the culture of love and unity among brethren preached by Christ (1 Pet. 4:8). In the same way, we concentrate on our individual needs and wants that we forget the need of the gospel. If we truly believe in Christ, then we must endure all it takes to preach the cross today (Psa. 68:11).

Faith confession: I am confident that if I go out to preach the cross from today, the power of God will be made available for me.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! I pray – give me the boldness to preach the cross as the power of God, and to save sinners from everlasting damnation. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Timothy 1:8-12

The Punishment for Backsliding

*Let us search and try our ways,
and turn again to the Lord. Lamentations 3:40*



It is important that believers take time to read the book of Lamentations.

Prophet Jeremiah is widely accepted by Bible scholars as the author of this great book. In the first verse of chapter 3, the author wrote – “I am the man that hath seen affliction...” He was sent by God to warn the children of Israel of the punishment of backsliding. They hated him and beat him up. He looked up to God in prayers in vs 44, but there was no answer, “Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through.” The entire book of Lamentations recounts the suffering the whole nation went through. Jehoiachin king of Judah was locked up in prison by the king of Babylon for 37 years (Jer. 52:31). The people were comfortable in their atrocities against God because they had lying prophets deceiving them (Jer. 29:21). The punishment were enormous as recounted in Jeremiah 3:3, “Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.” The situation wouldn't have gotten this worse, if they had listened when the Jeremiah told them that God wasn't comfortable with their sins (Jer. 3:6). We backslide when we neglect the precepts of God and begin to invent our own doctrine, where we will take away

every scripture portion that points us to repentance and concentrate on only those that tells us of the promises of prosperity. Recent news of how about 80 Nigerians were arrested for internet fraud by the US FBI and EFCC in Nigeria has brought so much shame to a country that boasts of multitude of pastors, bishops, archbishops, prophets, general overseers, most reverend and reverend, and all the titles that tells the world that we are a people seeking God. What happened? Have we not done more evil than good, in that we have indoctrinated our congregants to chase money and acquire wealth at all cost? Is Nigeria not experiencing the punishment of God, in that in the midst of our plenty human and natural resources, we are this backward?

Faith confession: I promise to keep the word of the Lord. I am determined to make amends in the way I live so that my life will continually please the Lord.

Let us pray: Lord! I am willing to turn a new leaf and follow you. Save me from backsliding. Strengthen me to endure all it takes to serve you with all my heart. Amen!

Meditation: Lamentations 2:1-22

Praying with the timing of the Lord

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. 1 Samuel 1:10



We read in the anchor verse above that Hannah was in bitterness of soul and she wept as though blood was gushing out of her eyes. She was bitter, but that didn't make her to commit suicide. She was indeed very angry, but that didn't make her to fight her adversary who was her mate. Before now, God was already looking for another priest to replace Eli in order to curtail the atrocities of his sons at Shiloh. Therefore, her prayer and vow were timely. This is walking into the timing of God. The mockery from her mate was also timely because it happened right before the Lord. From 1 Samuel 1 verse 11 to 28, we read of how she prayed, how she was rebuked by Eli, how her prayer was answered and how she returned the child to God according to her vow. Her promise not to allow a razor to touch Samuel's head was spectacular and indicated that Hannah understood the ordinances of God. Now, there is something fascinating about her husband – he was a man of vows and sacrifices unto the Lord (verse 21). This was how Hannah learnt how to vow. I do not subscribe to emotional tears during prayers, because it usually makes us to utter words and vows out of emotion. In the end, we find it hard to redeem our vows, and often time we begin to have a

quarrel with God and begin to find fault in church so that we do not redeem our vows. Hannah did not pray out of emotion. She prayed out of need, and she was under the prompting of the Lord (Rom. 8:26), to give God a worthy priest. How do we know this? It is from the manner she prayed and vowed in verse 11, and how she finally redeemed the vow from verse 26-28. In chapter 2:1-10, we see the manner Hannah magnified the Lord. This shows that Hannah had a good understanding and knowledge of God. She was not one of those women who do not know whom they serve and worship. It was her understanding of God that made God to choose her as the source of the next priest to oust Eli and his children out of the priestly office, and not her tears.

Faith confession: My faith is firm in the Lord. He makes me beautiful when I ask in his direction. I will forever put the Lord first in all my prayers and vows.

Let us pray: Lord- help me to pray according to your need and timing. Let me no longer pray selfish prayers, but to ask for the things that will glorify you in my life. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Sam 1:1-28; 1 Sam 2:1-10

Waiting on helpers from God

Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. 1 Chronicles 12:18



We only succeed when God gives us men to work with us. This was why Moses waited on the Lord for those he will send to work with him (Exo. 33:12). We all need faithful men (Neh. 7:1-2). At the start of my ministry, I had people I worked with, but because God did not give them to me, they never yielded their heart, and were almost becoming distractors. When it was time to build the wilderness tabernacle, God raised men to work with Moses (Exo. 35:30-35). The children of Israel too were very obedient to Moses, that they provided more than he needed for the work of God (Exo. 36:5; Exo. 39:32). When David was set to gather materials and funds to build for the temple that Solomon finally built, God raised donors for him (1 Chron. 29). Solomon also succeeded through the alliance that David had had in place before he died (1 King 5:1-6). In Jesus' prayer in John 17:6, we learnt that the disciples that abided with Him were given to Him by God. Hence, he said – "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" – John 6:37. Personally, I have learnt from experience and still learning; to be able to differentiate personal interest from the

interest of God. In the anchor verse above, we saw that David only had men to work with him after the spirit of God came upon their captain. In his last statement to David above, he said – "for thy God helpeth thee." We cannot attract help until people are confident that God is with us. We cannot win souls until men can confirm that God is with us. (Zech. 8:23). Our walk with God is a walk of evidence (Matt. 5:16; Heb. 11:1). This is how we prove our faith before others. Are you in need of helpers? Yield to God 100% and He will raise people to help you. When we don't see help, it is not necessarily that the devil is attacking – the evidence of our faith is not glaring yet.

Faith confession: I am privileged to serve the Lord. I am determined to live a life that will make my faith in God visible before others, to attract attention and help.

Let us pray: Lord! draw close to me as I come to you in humility and submission. Let your glory envelop my mind to always meditate upon your commands. Amen!

Meditation: Mark 3:13-15

Heavenly Benefits of Caring for your Pastor

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10



I am led to talk about the glory that comes upon those who care for their pastor, who happen to be the sower from the anchor verse above. To minister to those who labour for you spiritually (1 Corinth. 9:11) is an act that have the following rewards as we can see from the anchor verse: you will have enough food to eat, whatever seed you sow is multiplied and increases your fruits of righteousness before God. One of the fruits of righteousness is peace (Heb. 12:11; Isa. 3:10). In verse 11, we read "Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." Meaning, those who give to their pastors are enriched bountifully in everything. This is one way peace from financial struggles comes. And in return, the pastor gives thanks to God and more ready to work more. Meaning, the work of God will not suffer because the pastor and all those assisting him are happy to win more souls. Hence, as a righteous act the giver receives a tree of life, because the act of giving to the pastor is an act that strengthens the ministry of soul winning (Prov. 11:30). This also makes the Angels attached to the ministry of the pastor to be happy and the hosts of heaven equally rejoicing (Luke 15:7), because their labours and blessings are appreciated on earth with much thanksgiving rising unto God in heaven (2

Corinth. 9:12-13). God attaches so much importance to His pastors, the ones that He raised unto Himself to hear from Him so that His children can learn to serve Him with fear and trembling. These pastors reveal the mind of God and the implications of sins to the congregation. In any church pastored by the Lord's pastors you see the congregation becoming more and more interested in growing their knowledge of God. This is why God frowns at those who fails to support His pastors materially too (Malachi 3:8-10), because when they are in need, it can influence how to present God to the people, thereby leading souls into hell. There are three basic necessities in life – food, clothing and shelter. Do not allow your pastor to lack them. Reduce his financial burden if you can willingly and you will smile in plenty.

Faith confession: I am willing to start caring for my pastor so that he can focus on the calling of the Lord.

Let us pray: O Lord! Help me to always remember to make provisions for my pastor as you bless me, so that I can help him stand firm in faith, wining souls for you. Amen!

Meditation: Matthew 10:42; Psalms 34:10; Luke 6:38; Matthew 10:9-11

Our God is ever Faithful

O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me. Micah 6:3



My laptop went down on the 20th of July 2019, which was few days to when I will write the August devotional. I usually write the monthly devotional under divine inspiration that lasts for three days. Though, I got another laptop to prepare the devotional, it wasn't an easy-going process because I was already used to my laptop of 6 years. All effort to resuscitate the laptop was futile, and the culprit was suspected to be the logic board. The technicians who diagnosed it said, except a new logic board was procured and installed, the computer is as good as dead. It was finally given back to me after about 2 weeks of troubleshooting and trying to get it back to work. When I came back with it, I tried severally to power it – but it gave no sign of being able to work again. But, for my documents in the hard drive, I stored it in a safe place and tried to forget about it. Then, it was time for this September devotional. I was thinking how I will write without my computer. I needed a replacement, but that wasn't coming forth at the moment. So, I prayed to God – “Oh Lord, you have given men wisdom to invent all the things we see on earth, even this computer. Send you Angels to repair my computer, else I do not know how I will write this September devotional.” I told my wife I am not sure the September

devotional is possible because I was not comfortable with the other computer, except I get a new one as good as the one that is bad. At about some minutes to 12 midnight on the 20th of August, I heard a voice – “go and put on the computer.” I obeyed and brought it out from where I had kept it. I engaged the power button; it came on and went off. I heard the voice again – “put it on.” I did and it came back to life. It was later my wife said – she had also prayed in the rain for the Lord to intervene so that this devotional is made available. I informed the technician the following day who was surprised; to him the computer is already dead. Anyway – the computer has completed the devotional for September. This is my testimony, because God has shown again and again that He is faithful. Yours is next! See you in October. Remain a blessing. Shalom!

Faith confession: I will ever trust in your wonders o Lord. Really, nothing is impossible when the Lord is involved.

Let us pray: Lord, I thank you for this testimony. Receive all the glory and honour. I pray to have an outstanding testimony soonest. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

NOTE

[illegible]

NOTE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Covenant Confession

If you are not born again, you may have studied this devotional as literary material and will not receive the spirit therein. You can make a decision to correct that now by saying this covenant confession:

Lord Jesus, I know now that you died for my sins. I believe and confess you as my Lord and Saviour. Please come into my life and dwell inside me.

If you just said this confession, you should locate a spirit-filled church to join in fellowship with them – let the pastor know you just gave your life to Christ and you will be directed on what to do next. Salvation is a personal race and you must be serious with it.

You can also call us through the numbers below:

+2348076190064; +234-8086737791.

Or send the author an email: umonthoja@yahoo.com

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WEDNESDAY
5:30PM

SUNDAY
8:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
7:30AM

-
- A total transformation in the way you Think and Act
 - Understanding the basics of the Christian life
 - How to Exist as sons of God
 - How to Manifest the true Nature of God
 - Total Freedom from satanic maneuvers
 - How to make Heaven

About the Author

Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme encountered God the day he was baptised at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Owhelegbo Delta State, when he received a warm feeling in his heart as he confessed the Lord Jesus as His lord and personal saviour. His birth was surrounded with mysteries – he was born to a mother who had been barren for eight years. There was hardly anything he said that did not come to pass as he was growing. In 1994 he had a dream in which he received an orange which contained a bible with a red cover. Events continued dramatically until he started hearing voices telling him to go for rescue, as many souls were heading for destruction. Then it became clear to him that he was being called to carry out the task of restoring mankind back to Jesus.

In January 2006, he heard a voice telling him to read Isaiah 42. On



reading to verse 6, he felt a deep force within him and started trembling and a voice said - 'I have called you.' As he read further

he was getting immersed in the spirit of God and when he read verse 22, the voice said, 'this is your task.' Then on the 13th of October 2008, he heard a voice while driving: 'Service starts in your house on Sunday.' Events happened that were beyond his understanding and on Sunday 19th October 2008, the first public worship service came to pass.

He is trained at Rivers State University, Nigeria; Robert Gordon University, UK; UNICAF University, Cyprus; Nations University, USA; and TGSAT, India; leading to academic degree certificates in engineering, organisational psychology, divinity and theology. He has over 11 years' work experience as an engineer, growing to the position of Engineering Design Lead in the oil and gas industry, and equally has a rich curriculum vitae that covers trainings and experiences in other works of life, such as human resources management, marketing management, legal studies, alternative dispute resolution, etc. Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme is married to Pastor(Mrs.) Umuteme Adokiye Obele, who supports him in the call of God upon his life, and their marriage is blessed with children.